



THE CHANGING TIDE

Summer 2014

Little Things That Matter PREVENT OILY DISCHARGES

- ✦ Regularly practice preventative engine maintenance and keep your engine well-tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks.
- ✦ If you change your boat engine oil, use a closed system (such as a portable oil-change pump) available at marine supplies stores and always have an oil absorbent handy.
- ✦ Oil absorbents are the least expensive method boaters can use to control oily discharges. Oil absorbents (available at most marine supply stores) absorb oil while repelling water. Use oil absorbent for oil drips under the engine and in the bilge and to remove oil sheen on the water. These absorbents can also be used while fueling your boat or when filling a portable tank.
- ✦ If you have an extremely oily bilge, consider using a bilge pumpout service that properly disposes of the wastewater. If the bilge and/or engine compartment still needs significant cleaning after bilge pumpout, use a steam cleaning service.
- ✦ Check the absorbents often and dispose of them when saturated as hazardous waste at a marina or at your County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. Report all oil and chemical spills by calling the National Response Center (800) 424-8802, the California Office of Emergency Response (800) OILS911, and the marina office.
- ✦ Visit www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com for more information

Learn About No Discharge Zones



San Diego Bay, one of California's No Discharge Zones

Photo: Victoria Ippolito

Many boaters hear the term “No Discharge Zones” (NDZs) but do you know what these zones are and how many NDZs are in California? Let’s explore this topic.

NDZs are federally designated bodies of water where discharge of treated and untreated sewage from vessels is prohibited. California has eleven NDZs:

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| ✦ Lake Tahoe (El Dorado and Placer Counties) | ✦ Sunset Bay (Orange County) |
| ✦ Richardson Bay (Marin County) | ✦ Avalon Bay (Los Angeles County) |
| ✦ Channel Islands (Ventura County) | ✦ Dana Point (Orange County) |
| ✦ Huntington Harbor (Orange County) | ✦ Oceanside Harbor (San Diego County) |
| ✦ Newport Bay (upper and lower) (Orange County) | ✦ Mission Bay (San Diego County) |
| | ✦ San Diego Bay (San Diego County) |

When navigating in these water bodies your marine sanitation device (MSD) must be connected to a holding tank or secured with a zip tie or another device to prevent all sewage discharges. When your trip is over, or when the holding tank is full, “head” to the nearest sewage pumpout station. To find public sewage pumpout stations in California and to watch a video on how to properly use a pumpout station go to www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/pumpouts. If you don’t want to pump out your holding tank yourself, consider using a mobile pumpout service that will come to you. You don’t even have to be at your boat for the service. For a list of these convenient mobile pumpout services go to www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/PDF/CleanGreen/marinaoilsewage.pdf.

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Did you know that a NDZ applies only to vessel sewage, except for graywater from commercial vessels on the Great Lakes? In other words, a NDZ does not restrict the discharge of graywater from recreational vessels. However, graywater discharges from recreational vessels may be regulated or prohibited by local code or ordinances. The discharge of graywater is prohibited in some California harbors and marinas. Check with marina personnel for local restrictions.



Learn About No Discharge Zones

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It is important to remember that in order to ensure clean boating practices and to help reduce the amount of graywater that flows into our rivers and ocean, we suggest the following recommendations:

- ✦ Choose phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps. These products can easily be found in any grocery store or marine supply store. You may also want to check the following websites to find not only phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps but also less toxic, less volatile, and superior biodegradable products:
<http://epa.gov/dfe/index.htm>
www.SFApproved.org
www.ecologo.org/en
www.greenseal.org/GreenBusiness/Standards.aspx
- ✦ Use shore-side sinks, laundry and showers whenever possible. If not available, save showers, laundry, and dishwashing for home.
- ✦ Use as little cleaning product as possible. This will save you money and cut ocean pollution!
- ✦ Encourage boaters to conserve water and use water-saving devices such as low-flow showerheads.
- ✦ Rinse and scrub your boat with freshwater after each trip.
- ✦ FINALLY, always check with marina managers or harbor masters for local ordinances.



Richardson Bay, one of the California No Discharge Zones Photo: Juan Ochoa

Remember: Discharging raw sewage into any of California's lakes, rivers, reservoirs, or coastal waters within three miles of shore is prohibited within U.S. navigable waters. State law also prohibits dumping any treated or untreated human waste in a marina, yacht harbor, fresh water lake, reservoir, or fresh water impoundment, No Discharge Zones, rivers that don't support interstate traffic, and water sanctuaries.

Learn more about environmental laws at: www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/PDF/CleanGreen/EnvironmentalLawsBrochure.pdf.

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The Changing Tide newsletter is a great resource for you to get California's latest clean boating information. Help to reduce our carbon footprint and the amount of trash added to the waste stream by going paperless.



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